

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The light from the incoherent solid state light source 210 is assumed to be initially unpolarized. Light that reaches the light extraction area 224 of the light guide 220 is passed to the reflective polarizer 340. A part of the light that has the desired polarization passes through the reflective polarizer 340 and is coupled into the light extraction device 230 as a collimated, polarized light beam. The remainder of the light that does not have the desired polarization is reflected by the reflective polarizer 340 back into light guide 220. Meanwhile, the diffusing reflectors-~~339~~ 329 operate to change the polarization of the light reflected back into the light guide 220 so that it has components having the correct polarization for passing through the reflective polarizer 340. So, in the illumination device 300 the light from the incoherent solid state light source circulates within the low-loss light guide 220 until it reaches the light extraction area 224 with the correct polarization to pass through the reflective polarizer 340 and into the light extraction device 230.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In an alternative arrangement, the diffusing reflector(s)-~~339~~ 329 are replaced with specular reflector(s)-~~339~~ 329 disposed on exterior surfaces of the light guide 220 where total internal reflection (TIR) is not supported, and a quarter wavelength foil 345 is provided in an optical path between each specular reflector-~~339~~ 329 and the reflective polarizer. Here, the axis of the quarter wavelength foil makes an angle of about 45 degrees with the transmission direction of the reflective polarizer 340. The quarter wavelength foil 345 may be provided between the light guide 220 and the reflective polarizer 340, or between each specular reflector-~~339~~ 329 and the corresponding sidewall of the light guide 220.